Step 27

has showed to me that he also isn't honest with a part of himself.

Sazuku, who rejected the me that isn't honest with myself,

仕事で朝まこもり徹すと、私もスタッフも楽しみという名の打ち上げ食べることばかり。
食べることに、すごい事。食べるの大好き。
ですが、こりずに時々やってくる、うちら助ダイエットブーム。瓜先生ちスリッパをはいてみたり、カーヴァーセットとかやってみたり。食事前後をやってみたり。
夜食や朝食にヨーグルト、シリアルなどのヘルシー健食物をそれぞれ買ってみたりするんです。で、何を買ったが仕事してるうちに忘れるんですね。んで、時間になって、「そうそう食べよっかー。何を買ったけ……お……」
ここまでがルーティンです。しょっぱーんです。
でも一応それ食べます。
食べ終わって、やっぱり「……足りぬ。」食べるの大好きなうちらの魂がそんなかわいらしい食べ物オンリーで満たされるわけがないのです。んで、菓子箱をあさるという末路。いい加減それを自覚しているので、購入する時に「これ買ったらまたおとで思い出してスイーツなるんやろなー」でまた和菓子をこしこしするのです。だけど今日の自分を信じてまたかわいい買い物をするのです。そして家の定、菓子箱エンドですよ。

Whoa!
THIS KID WILL BE PLAYING NEXT.
Waaah
HUUUH!? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT!
YANK
AHH, COME ON.
GO STAGE
HEY!
I SAID THAT I CAN'T!
old man!!
Have fun.
EHH... I BELIEVE THE REGULARS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO THIS,
BUT A LIVE PERFORMANCE DURING THE DAY IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN ONE IN THE EVENING.
STILL...
Listen to me old man!!

THIS PLACE IS A RENOWNED LIVE HOUSE, THE GUESTS HERE ARE UNUSUALLY OPEN-MINDED.
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO PERFORM IS WELCOME TO DO SO.
EVEN YOUNGSTERS LIKE YOU ARE WELCOMED.
IF YOU'D EXCUSE ME
JUSS
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD PERFORM
OKAY? ☆
BECAUSE OF THAT, EVEN SOMEONE AS YOUNG AS ME IS ALLOWED TO PERFORM.
WAHAHAHA

T/N: He calls himself young, but uses "washi" to refer to himself, which is typically used by old men.

WHAT A BORING FELLA~
You're not qualified to be a Kansai native
I'm not from Kansai
ARE YOU SCARED?
YOU KNOW, YOUNG MAN,
I'VE SEEN YOU WALKING AROUND WITH YOUR SAX A NUMBER OF TIMES.
WHEN!?
Fu Fu Fu Fu

I'VE HEARD YOU PLAYING FROM A DISTANCE,
AND I DON'T MEAN I'VE JUST OVERHEARD YOU...
I'VE LISTENED INTENTLY.

Waaah
Waaah
Waaah
Way to go, Kid!
Let's see what you've got!
Oohh!?

T/N: A suona is a type of Asian oboe usually played by street vendors.

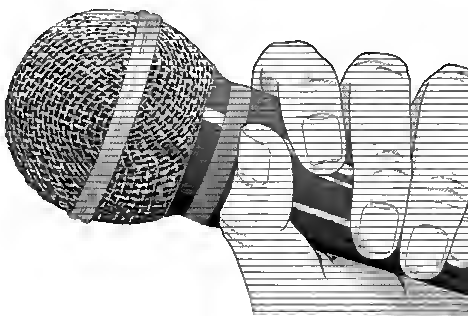
スタッフに「今回描の回です」とお知らせすると若干ざわっとかいますね。「まさか」ざわ…。私もスタッフも恐れてるのが、SAX…！

SAX描くの、何気に大変なのです。資料に安物のSAXを買ってあるので、写真を撮ってトレースすることがほとんどなのですが、トレースでも結構な作業。

現在のスタッフはほぼ楽器をやったことがないメンツ。私もです。楽器の構造を理解してません。SAXの、実際にある突起なのか凹みなのか、それが膨らみなのか、手で触って確認しながら描いたりトーン処理をしたり。

私が描く時は、もう見たまま描こうと思い直しました！黒く見える部分は黒くして、何も無く見える部分は描かない。そしたら描くの早くなりました(笑)。そしてそれぐらいの方が味のある絵になることがわかりました。

作中に登場したジャズライブ&レストランSONEは北野に実在します。毎度ジイも言ってますがSONEさんは老舗なのに寛容！作品に描くことも喜んでくださり、取材でもじゃんじゃん撮影させていただいております。楽器の写真もたくさん！SAXだけじゃなく楽器を描くのはどれも大変ですね。写真があってすごく助かってます。そして素敵に描きあげてくれるスタッフにも感謝です！



Come on
WHA-
Oh!?

Ooh!?
Oohh!?
Uwaah!
The suona!
It somehow
gives off a cool
vibe now~!!
TOUR

!
Ooh

..I don't completely understand, but...
It feels like... Sazuku is recklessly running,
chasing after the adults.
No, that's not it.
The adults are...

Letting Sazuku catch up to them.
Whenever Sazuku is about to break loose,
the adults let him catch up again.

Is he going to surpass the adults!?
No,
that's not it.
That's not it!

They're holding hands in harmony!!

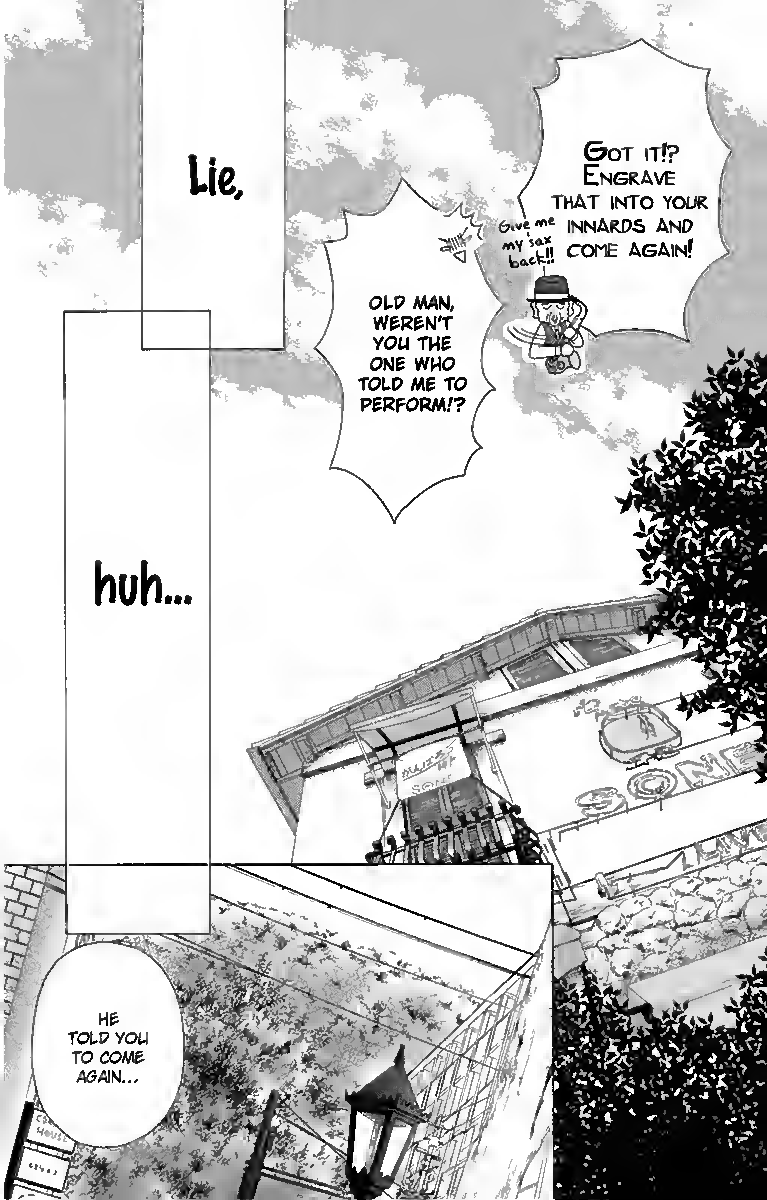
His ever-frowning face
actually looks happy.

What a difficult guy!

Waaah
25 POINTS.
!
Good job, kid!
It doesn't matter that you're an amateur!
!
WAS THAT YOUR FIRST TIME PERFORMING IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE?

THAT'S FINE.
YOU SEE, WHEN YOU PERFORM IN FRONT OF PEOPLE,
AT FIRST YOU'LL BE ACTING A BIT.
BUT, AFTER A WHILE,
YOU'LL NO LONGER HAVE TO LIE.

You'll be acting a bit.
But, after a while,
You'll no longer have to lie.
Smile


Lie,
GOT IT!? ENGRAVE THAT INTO YOUR INNARDS AND COME AGAIN!
Give me my sax back!!
OLD MAN, WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO PERFORM!?
huh...
HE TOLD YOU TO COME AGAIN...

THAT MEANS EBI-JI WANTS TO PLAY WITH YOU AGAIN.
EH!? THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT!?
...I SEE, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.
EHH~ SERIOUSLY.
PFFT
!? WHAT!?

EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO RUN AWAY AFTER THAT SUONA-LIKE BEGINNING,
IT WAS THOUGHT-LESSLY DRAINED AWAY.
NOTHING.
Thoughtlessly, he says.
THAT OLD MAN AND THE REST MATCHED MY TERRIBLE NOTES A LOT.
SAZUKU, YOU WERE PULLING AWAY FROM THEM OFTEN, HUH?
WAS THAT ON PURPOSE?
SHUT UP!
WHO WOULD WANT TO BE OUT OF TUNE ON PURPOSE?
BUT...

THAT THING THE OLD MAN SAID, I WONDER WHEN IT WILL HAPPEN.
When you perform in front of people, at first you'll be acting a bit.
But, after a while, you'll no longer have to lie.
YET,
I WAS IMPRESSED A BIT,
MAYBE LIKE 2 MILLIMETERS
2 Millimeters.
IT'S ALWAYS FELT GOOD...

I think that it's best to be honest with yourself.
Ah, he's talking about it again.
TO LET EVERYTHING OUT.
THAT KIND OF THING IS NORMAL.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
Ehhh, you thought maybe you would only let pretty things out, right?
BUT...
...THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT,

IT'S ACTUALLY KIND OF COOL TO BE ABLE TO LIE LIKE THAT.

...Again
...With that look.
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT MUSIC...
...RIGHT?

WHO KNOWS?
He's talking about music, right?
While I was thinking that,
Sazuku's words and his eyes...
WHA-

Several things were milling around and around.
WE-!?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!? JEEEEZ!!
YOU'VE BEEN WEIRD LATELY!!
WEIRD!!
But, it felt somewhat...
How do I describe it...
Soft and light.

Aruitou Location

Got it!? Engrave that into your innards and come again!
Give me my sake back!!
Old man, weren't you the one who told me to perform!?
SONE

SONE

A jazz restaurant that is believed to be the pioneer of the Kobe jazz scene. Every night, delicious cuisine is enjoyed along with performances from various jazz musicians. It is also open on sundays for lunch and "Afternoon Jazz".

END MAP ⑤ (p202)

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OK.
COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
HONESTLY, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DRAGGED ME HERE LIKE THAT,...
YOU EVEN ENDANGERED MY LITTLE BROTHER!
SOB
BUT, I WAS DESPERATE!
I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST... WE HAVE SO MANY GREAT PROJECTS AND SO LITTLE STAFF!
BOW
WE REALLY NEED YOU!
FLINCH
SO YOU NEED ME, HUH? THEN I'LL HELP, BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME...
DOKI DOKI
EH!? IS THAT ALL!?
...SAY "PLEASE"
serious

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